(d) if so, what preventive steps Government are planning to check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Pension Policy and replacement of PPF

5268. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Pension Policy as well as replacement of Public Provident Fund Scheme is being framed by Government.

(b) if so, what are the salient'features of both the new schemes; and

(c) by when these would come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had commissioned, in August, 1998, a Project OASIS (an acronym of Old Age Social & Income Security) to examine policy questions connected with old age income security in India and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee, headed by Dr. S.A. Dave, former Chairman of Unit Trust of India, submitted its final report to Government on 11.1.2000. The Report contains recommendations on the schemes and%ction that Government may take to ensure that every yourfg^ worker builds up enough savings -during *his/* her working life which could serve as a shield against poverty during their old age. The issue of implementation of the recommendations, contained in die Report of the Committee, would arise only after Government takes a final decision in this regard.

Distribution of land to landless SCs/STs

5269. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:'

(a) whether,it is a fact that Government initiated action to distribute vacant Government lands to the landless families of SCs/STs during 1991-92, as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee; and